

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 ISO-00 SCCT-01 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01

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R 251536Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1852

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: POLITICAL PARTY ROUNDUP

REF: (A) LISBON 995 AND PREVIOUS

(B) STOCKHOLM 888

(C) BONN 2956

1. STATUS OF LEGAL RECOGNITION OF LEFTIST PARTIES:

(A) WORKER-FARMER ALLIANCE (ALIANCA OPERARIA-CAMPONESA - AOC)

AND COMMUNIST ELECTORAL FRONT (FRENTE ELEITORAL COMUNISTA-

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MARXISTA-LENINISTA - FEC-ML) PRESENTED THE REQUIRED MINIMUM

OF 5,000 SIGNATURES TO SUPREME COURT FEB 21, THEREBY BECOMING ELEVENTH AND TWELFTH PARTIES QUALIFYING FOR ELECTIONS. RELIABLE PPD SOURCE TOLD EMBOFF THAT AOC (WHICH SAYS COMMUNIST PARTY ITS NUMBER ONE ENEMY AND, IN EFFECT, THAT ANY ENEMY OF OUR ENEMY IS A FRIEND) WAS ALLOWED TO COLLECT QUALIFYING SIGNATURES FROM PPD FUNCTIONARIES AT PPD NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS LAST WEEK. AFTER LEGALIZATION, AOC LEADERS STATED THAT PARTY CONSIDERS SOCIALISTS ALLY AGAINST COMMUNISTS, WHO SEEK TO DESTROY DEMOCRACY. AOC SAID IN ADDITION THAT PPD ALSO ALLY IN DEFENSE OF LIBERTY, AND THAT IT WOULD NOT ATTACK CDS BECAUSE COMMUNISTS MORE IMPORTANT ENEMY.

(B) BOTH TROTSKYITE INTERNATIONALIST COMMUNIST LEAGUE (LIGA COMUNISTA INTERNACIONALISTA - LCI) AND MANEUL SERRA'S POPULAR SOCIALIST FRONT (FRENTE SOCIALISTA POPULAR - FSP) HAVE STATED THEIR INTENTION TO PARTICIPATE IN ELECTIONS. LCI IS TRYING TO ROUND UP LAST 1,000 SIGNATURES IN STREET CAMPAIGN IN DOWNTOWN LISBON.

2. PARTY ORGANS TO PUBLISH MORE FREQUENTLY DURING CAMPAIGN: EXPRESSO REPORTS THAT PPD OFFICIAL WEEKLY ORGAN POVO LIVRE WILL APPEAR THREE TIMES WEEKLY DURING CAMPAIGN, AND THAT SOCIALIST WEEKLY PORTUGAL SOCIALISTA WILL BE PUBLISHED DAILY. COMMUNIST PARTY HAS ALREADY ANNOUNCED CONVERSION OF AVANTE TO DAILY DURING CAMPAIGN PERIOD.

3. VIOLENCE MARS PPD RALLIES:
RECENT PPD RALLIES IN ALMADA AND CHAVES HAVE BEEN MARRED BY VIOLENCE AS UNIDENTIFIED GROUPS OF LEFTISTS HAVE ATTEMPTED TO HARASS SESSIONS. ALMADA RALLY WAS BROKEN UP BY 80 STONE-THROWING YOUTHS. ARRIVAL OF POLICE AND COPCON FORCES PREVENTED INJURIES. CHAVES RALLY, HOWEVER, TERMINATED IN GREAT CONFUSION AS CROWD ATTEMPTED TO STORM MEETING HALL. TROOPS ARRIVED BUT NOT BEFORE FOUR PERSONS INJURED BY GUNFIRE, WHICH PRESS REPORT CLAIMS EMANATED FROM PPD DOORMAN. WE HAVE NOT CONFIRMED SHOOTING OR PRESS REPORTS THAT MOLOTOV COCKTAILS, CLUBS, AND NUMEROUS WEAPONS SEIZED FROM PERSONS IN OR AROUND MEETING HALL. PPD SOURCES TELL US THAT SYSTEMATIC FAR LEFT HARASSMENT OF ITS RALLIES IS UNDERWAY.

4. PPD LEADER'S CAR BOMBED:
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SOMEBODY PLACED EXPLOSIVE DEVICE UNDER CAR BELONGING TO PPD LEADER AND EXPRESSO EDITOR FRANCISCO PINTO BALSEMAO AT 1:25 AM MORING FEB 24. CAR WAS PARKED IN FRONT OF BALSEMAO'S HOME IN LISBON SUBURB. DAMAGE WAS LIGHT AND NO INJURIES REPORTED. BALSEMAO IS IN US RAISING FUNDS FOR PARTY AND WAS NOT AT HOME DURING INCIDENT.

5. CDS CREDITORS ATTACH PARTY PROPERTY:
CDS CREDITORS REMOVED PRINTING EQUIPMENT WORTH 172,000 DOLLARS

FROM PARTY'S NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS FEB 21, ALLEGING THAT CDS RENEGED ON CONTRACT AND HAD NOT PAID FOR EQUIPMENT. CDS HAS ISSUED COMMUNIQUE CLAIMING THAT "ENORMOUS FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES" MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR PARTY TO FULFILL FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS ON TIME. CDS SECRETARY-GENERAL ADELINO AMARO DA COSTA TOLD EMBOFF THAT PARTY FINANCES AT ROCK BOTTOM SINCE PREVIOUS FINANCIAL SOURCES DRIED UP AS RESULT NATIONAL LIQUIDITY CRISIS.

6. CDS CONGRESS HELD IN SECRET:

SOME 82 CDS LEADERS MET SECRETLY IN OPORTO WEEKEND OF FEB 20 TO FINISH WORK OF INTERRUPTED CONGRESS. EXPRESSO REPORTS LEADERSHIP SHAKEN UP AND SOME OLD REGIME FIGURES PURGED, BUT THAT DIOGO FREITAS DO AMARAL, COUNCIL OF STATE MEMBER REMAINS PRESIDENT, WITH AMARO DA COSTA ELEVATED TO VICE PRESIDENT. DETAILS OF CONGRESS FOLLOW SEPTTEL.

7. SOARES AIDE LEAVES MINISTRY FOR PARTY WORK:

VITOR CUNHA REGO, RELINQUISHED HIS POSITION AS FONMIN SOARES' CHIEF OF CABINET TO DEVOTE FULL TIME TO SOCIALIST PARTY AFFAIRS. MANUEL SA MACHADO, CAREER DIPLOMAT, REPLACED HIM. SOCIALISTS ARE GEARING UP FOR ELECTIONS, AND WILL ANNOUNCE THEIR LIST OF CANDIDATES FOR ELECTIONS AT PRESS CONFERENCE EVENING FEB 25. INTERPARTY BROKERING OVER CANDIDATES AND NEGOTIATIONS WITH ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT (AFM) OVER AFM INSTITUTIONALIZATION ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR RECENT CANCELATION OF SCHEDULED VISITS OF SOARES AND JORGE CAMPINOS TO BONN AND SCANDINAVIA RESPECTIVELY (REF B AND C).

8. CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY ACTIVITY INTENSE:

RECENTLY REJUVENATED CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS (PDC) HAVE HELD SERIES OF RALLIES IN LISBON IN LAST FEW DAYS TO PUBLICIZE PARTY AND ITS PROGRAM. FORMER VENEZUELAN FOREIGN MINISTER CALVANI WILL SPEAK LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AT SESSION SET FOR FEB 25 IN LISBON. PDC SUCCESSFUL SO FAR IN WARDING OFF VERBAL AND PHYSICAL ATTACKS OF TYPE SUFFERED BY CDS. MANY OBSERVERS DESCRIBE PDC--DIRECTED BY FORMER AFM LEADER SANCHES OSORIO--AS LIKELY TO OUTLAST CDS, CONSIDERED "BURNED OUT" AND SMEARED BEYOND RECOVERY AS RESULT OF SUSTAINED LEFTIST ATTACKS. SO FAR IT APPEARS THAT PDC INTENT ON REMAINING ALOOF FROM CDS, WHICH IS SEEKING ALLIANCE WITH PDC. CARLUCCI

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